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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/708,154

02/12/2004

Yu-Bang Fu

17389.164

2153

22913

7590

07/16/2008

WORKMAN NYDEGGER
60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111

EXAMINER

CHEN, CHIA WEI A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/708,154	Applicant(s) FU ET AL.	
	Examiner CHIA-WEI A. CHEN	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34 and 54-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34, 54-67, 73 and 74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 68-72 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claims 68-70 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 68-70 are directed toward an external power supply connectable to a mobile telephone (class 455 subclass 572). The original claims are directed to an external strobe device (class 348 subclass 371).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 68-70 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

2. Newly submitted claims 71 and 72 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 71 and 72 are directed toward a camera connectable to a mobile telephone, the camera configured to provide power from the power supply of the camera to the mobile telephone (class 348 subclass 207.99). The original claims are directed to an external strobe device (class 348 subclass 371).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 71 and 72 are withdrawn from

consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/21/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Argument argues with respect to claim 34 that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection over Miki (US 6,101,339) is invalid because Miki only discloses the claimed features as isolated feature among the different systems of Miki.

However, the embodiments of Miki that are expressly disclosed are *preferred embodiments* and the combination of the embodiments does not destroy any one of the embodiments constituting the combination. Moreover, the rejection of claim 34 does not rely on a combination of the different embodiments of Miki.

Applicant requests that the Examiner articulate the reasons why a transformer must be inherently present in an external strobe device.

Examiner explains: A transformer is necessary whenever a power source, in this case a battery, is used to supply power to a component of which the standard operating voltage is different from that of the output voltage of the battery. A transformer is, therefore, necessary to convert the output voltage of a battery to the standard operating voltage of the strobe module and the standard operating voltage of the image-capturing

apparatus. Since the standard operating voltage of a strobe module is much greater than the output voltage of any modern battery, a transformer is required to “step-up” the voltage. Likewise, in order to match the standard operating voltage of an image-capturing apparatus, a transformer must convert the output voltage of the battery to the standard operating voltage of the image-capturing apparatus in order for the image-capturing apparatus to function correctly.

Applicant argues with respect to claim 34 that the power supply circuits referred to in the rejection of this claim do not perform the functions recited in the claims.

The power supply circuit referred to in claim 34 are not expressly taught by Miki, but are inherently taught. There is no reference number corresponding to any specific component of Miki. A power supply circuit supplies power to components within an electronic device from power outputted by a power source, in this case a battery. A transformer is necessary whenever a power source is used to supply power to a component of which the standard operating voltage is different from that of the output voltage of the battery. A transformer is, therefore, necessary to convert the output voltage of a battery to the standard operating voltage of the strobe module and the standard operating voltage of the image-capturing apparatus. Since the standard operating voltage of a strobe module is much greater than the output voltage of any modern battery, a transformer is required to “step-up” the voltage. Likewise, in order to match the standard operating voltage of an image-capturing apparatus, a transformer must convert the output voltage of the battery to the standard operating voltage of the

image-capturing apparatus in order for the image-capturing apparatus to function correctly.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 39-41 and 48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miki (US 6,101,339).

Claim 34, Miki teaches an apparatus comprising:

- a strobe module (light emitter 19) capable of providing light;
- a power supply (batteries 3) capable of supplying power to the strobe module;
- a port (contact pins 2a) capable of connecting and transmitting power from the power supply to an external image-capturing apparatus (camera body 1);
- a housing (flash housing 17), the strobe module (light emitter 19) and the power supply (batteries 3) being disposed in the housing; and
- a transformer (power supply circuits) in the housing and electrically connected to the power supply, the strobe module, and the port, the transformer being capable of transforming an output voltage of the power supply into a standard voltage of the

strobe module and outputting the standard voltage of the strobe module to the strobe module, the transformer being capable of transforming the output voltage of the power supply into a standard voltage of the image-capturing apparatus and outputting the standard voltage of the image-capturing apparatus to the image-capturing apparatus via the port (Miki teaches that the batteries are connected to a power supply circuits that supply electric power to the different components. The power supply circuit must output the correct voltage corresponding to each component, thus requiring a transformer.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. Claims 54, 58, 59, 61, 63, 73, and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki (US 6,101,339).

Claim 54, Miki teaches the apparatus as in Claim 34, but does not expressly teach wherein the apparatus is configured to send data to the external image-capturing apparatus, the data indicating a quantity of power stored in the power supply.

However, Miki teaches wherein the CPU 42 of a detachable lens barrel 2, containing a secondary battery 44, monitors the capacity of the secondary battery and transmits this information to the body 1 (col. 5, lines 29-46).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the battery capacity monitoring function of the detachable lens barrel embodiment of Miki (Fig. 2) to the external strobe embodiment of Miki (Fig. 13) to indicate a warning when the remaining capacity of the secondary battery is scarce.

Claim 58, Miki teaches a system in Fig. 13 comprising:

- an external strobe (19) connectable to a camera, the external strobe including a power supply (batteries 3),
- the external strobe configured to provide power from the power supply of the external strobe to the camera (col. 9, lines 29-35),

Another embodiment of Miki teaches:

- an external device configured to send first data to the camera, the first data indicating a quantity of power stored in the power supply of the external strobe (col. 5, lines 29-46).

Claim 59, Miki teaches the system as in Claim 58, wherein the external strobe includes a signal port (contact pins of external device); wherein the camera includes a signal port (circuit board of camera); and wherein the external strobe configured to send the first data to the camera via a data signal sent from the signal port of the external strobe to the signal port of the camera (The broken lines in Fig. 13 indicate the connection path of

the contact pins of an external device and the circuit board of the camera; col. 8, lines 31-42).

Claim 61, Miki teaches the system as in Claim 58, further comprising:

- the camera (1);
- wherein the external strobe is connected to the camera (Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 26-29).

Claim 63, the image-capturing system of Miki inherently includes the function of a camcorder (CCD 40 and CPU 42).

Claim 73, Miki teaches a system in Fig. 13 comprising:

- an external strobe (17) connectable to a camera (1), the external strobe comprising:
 - means for storing power (batteries 3);
 - means for providing power from the means for storing power to the camera (electrical connections indicated by broken lines in Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 29-35);

Another embodiment of Miki teaches:

- means for sending data to the camera, the data indicating a quantity of power stored in the means for storing power (col. 5, lines 29-46)..

Claim 74, Miki teaches

- the camera (1);

- wherein the external strobe is connected to the camera (Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 26-29).

9. Claims 55-57, 60, and 64-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki (US 6,101,339) in view of Ogasawara (US 6,295,413).

Claim 55, Miki teaches the apparatus as in Claim 34, but does is silent regarding wherein the apparatus is configured to send an identifier to the external image-capturing apparatus, the identifier indicating a type of external strobe.

Ogasawara teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to send an identifier to the external image-capturing apparatus, the identifier indicating that the strobe is ready (col. 27, lines 6-23). The identifier of Ogasawara initiates a handshake between a strobe device and an external image-capturing apparatus to notify the external image-capturing apparatus that an external strobe is connected to the port.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have used the handshake operation of Ogasawara and identifier with the strobe apparatus of Miki to negotiate parameters of both devices and to synchronize communication between the devices.

Claim 56, Ogasawara teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to receive an acknowledgement of the identifier from the external image-capturing apparatus (the

camera CPU acknowledges the communication from the strobe apparatus; col. 27, lines 16-19).

Claim 57, Ogasawara teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to commence operation after receiving the acknowledgement (col. 27, lines 7-19 of Ogasawara).

Miki teaches supplying power to the external image-capturing apparatus (col. 9, lines 30-35 of Miki).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have commenced the power supplying of Miki with the handshaking acknowledgement of Ogasawara to synchronize the communication between the two devices.

Claim 60, Miki teaches wherein the external strobe is of at least one type of external strobe (external flash 17); but does not expressly teach wherein the external strobe is configured to send an identifier to the camera, the identifier indicating the at least one type of external strobe.

Ogasawara teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to send an identifier to the external image-capturing apparatus, the identifier indicating that the strobe is ready (col. 27, lines 6-23). The identifier of Ogasawara initiates a handshake between a strobe device and an external image-capturing apparatus to notify the external image-capturing apparatus that an external strobe is connected to the port.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have used the handshake operation of Ogasawara and identifier with the strobe apparatus of Miki to negotiate parameters of both devices and to synchronize communication between the devices.

Claim 64, Miki teaches a system in Fig. 13 comprising:

- an external strobe (17) connectable to a camera (1),
- the external strobe including a power supply (batteries 3),
- the external strobe configured to provide power from the power supply of the external strobe to the camera, the external strobe being of at least one type of external strobe (col. 9, lines 29-35),

but is silent regarding:

- the external strobe configured to send an identifier to the camera, the identifier indicating the at least one type of external strobe.

Ogasawara teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to send an identifier to the external image-capturing apparatus, the identifier indicating that the strobe is ready (col. 27, lines 6-23). The identifier of Ogasawara initiates a handshake between a strobe device and an external image-capturing apparatus to notify the external image-capturing apparatus that an external strobe is connected to the port.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have used the handshake operation of Ogasawara and identifier

with the strobe apparatus of Miki to negotiate parameters of both devices and to synchronize communication between the devices.

Claim 65, Ogasawara teaches wherein the external strobe is configured to receive an acknowledgement of the identifier from the camera (the camera CPU acknowledges the communication from the strobe apparatus; col. 27, lines 16-19).

Claim 66, Ogasawara teaches wherein the apparatus is configured to commence operation after receiving the acknowledgement (col. 27, lines 7-19 of Ogasawara).

Miki teaches supplying power to the external image-capturing apparatus (col. 9, lines 30-35 of Miki).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have commenced the power supplying of Miki with the handshaking acknowledgement of Ogasawara to synchronize the communication between the two devices.

Claim 67, Miki teaches the camera (1); wherein the external strobe is connected to the camera (Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 26-29).

10. Claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki in view of Reitmaa (US 6,424,843).

Claim 62, Miki teaches the system as in Claim 58, but does not expressly teach wherein the camera forms part of a mobile telephone.

Reitmaa teaches wherein a camera is part of a mobile telephone (Fig. 9a, 9b; col. 10, lines 5-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the mobile telephone of Reitmaa with the system of Miki in order to transmit a photograph to a user's talking partner for a purpose of video-conferencing or the like (See col. 1, lines 56-65 of Reitmaa).

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHIA-WEI A. CHEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1707. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 - 17:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chia-Wei A Chen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622
07/09/2008

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